

Application No. 09/865,763

Atty Docket No. 3COM 3611-1

Amendments to the Specification

On page 55, please amend the Abstract as shown below:

~~A method, and apparatus~~ A method and apparatus implementing the method, of selecting a bit load b for a channel in a carrier system. The carrier system encodes data based on a constellation of points. Each point represents a tuple of data. The constellation has a self-similarity property. The bit load for the channel is selected based on the self-similarity property of the constellation. In an alternate embodiment, the method and apparatus are used to determine the bit load of the sub-channels in a multi-carrier system.

On page 4, please amend line 10 as shown below:

The assumption of an equally probable constellation decoding error yields an average fraction of erroneous ~~bits that approaches $\frac{1}{2}$~~ bits that approach $\frac{1}{2}$ at large values of b . In other words, approximately half of the bits will be in error when a QAM symbol error occurs. This approach was earlier used in Proakis, p. 262 for 2^b -ary orthogonal signals. However, this approach is not precise either. Because this assumption is used when determining the number of bits b_i per sub-channel, an improved method and apparatus are needed to select the number of bits per sub-channel. Furthermore, this assumption does not accommodate for fluctuations in the bit error rate. The method and apparatus should also accommodate for fluctuations in the bit error rate.